

**OUTLINE FOR  
LICENSED STATE LAND SURVEYOR  
EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE**

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1) Purpose of this Study Guide
- 2) Applicants qualifications for License
- 3) Application forms and fees
- 4) Working Sketch submittal

**AREAS OF STUDY**

Acts, Rules and Boards

- 1) Professional Land Surveying Practices Act
  - a) Current Act
  - b) Previous Acts and revisions
  - c) Authority, duties and obligations of a Licensed State Land Surveyor
- 2) Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying General Rules of Procedures & Practices
  - a) Current Rules
  - b) Previous Rules and revisions
  - c) Authority, duties and obligations of a Licensed State Land Surveyor
- 3) Former "Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors" acts, rules and regulations

Laws, Statutes and Codes

- 1) Gammel's Laws of Texas - current and repealed laws pertaining to:
  - a) Colonization
  - b) Grants from the Spanish Government
  - c) Headrights, Bounty and Donation Grants (Mexican, Republic and State)
  - d) Disposition of the public domain (railroad, confederate, preemption, etc grants)
  - e) General Land Office
  - f) District and County Surveyors
- 2) Texas Constitution - Current and Repealed Articles pertaining to:
  - a) Spanish and Mexican Land Titles
  - b) Public Lands and General Land Office
  - c) District and County Surveyors
- 3) General and Special Laws of Texas - current and repealed laws pertaining to:
  - a) General Land Office
  - b) The Public Domain
  - c) County Surveyors
  - d) Registration and/or Licensing of Land Surveyors

- 4) Vernon's Annotated Texas Statutes - current and repealed statutes pertaining to:
  - a) Public Lands
  - b) Commissioner of the General Land Office
  - c) General Land Office
  - d) Surveyors and Surveys
    - d1) Licensed State Land Surveyors
    - d2) County Surveyors
    - d3) Surveys and Field Notes
  - e) Patents
- 5) Texas Natural Resources Codes - current and revised codes pertaining to:
  - a) General provisions applicable to the public domain
  - b) Surveys and Surveyors
  - c) General Land Office
  - d) Disposition of the Public Domain
  - e) Beaches and Dunes
- 6) Texas Administration Codes - Title 31 Natural Resources and Conservation
  - a) General Land Office procedures
    - a1) Purchase of excess acreage
    - a2) Procedure for patenting land
    - a3) Vacancies
  - b) Records of the Land Office
    - b1) Examination
    - b2) Reproduction
    - b3) Translation of Spanish Archives
  - c) Surveying
    - c1) Field Note Forms
    - c2) Coastal Lands and boundaries
    - c3) Deeds of Acquittance and Corrected Patents
    - c4) Dignity of Calls
    - c5) Surveyor's maps or plats and reports
    - c6) Working Sketches

#### The General Land Office

- 1) History of the Land Office
  - a) Laws and Acts pertaining to the Land Office
  - b) Commissioners
  - c) Administration and duties
- 2) Functions of the Land Office
  - a) Records and Archives
  - b) Surveying Division
  - c) Asset management
  - d) School Land Board
  - e) Oil and Gas
  - f) Coastal Area Planning

- 3) Contents of the Land Office (partial listing)
  - a) Spanish Archives
  - b) Field Notes, Patents and Deed of Acquittance Files
  - c) School Land Register
  - d) County Maps (current and retired)
  - e) Sketch Files, Surveyor's Reports, Connection Surveys
  - f) Rolled Sketches
  - g) Mineral Application Maps
  - h) Public School Fund Land - bound block books
  - i) County and State Line Field Notes
  - j) Submerged area maps
  - k) Abstract Volumes

### Land Surveying Practice

- 1) Theory of Surveying
  - a) Accuracy and Precision
  - b) State Plane Coordinate Systems
  - c) Water Boundaries
    - 1) Gradient Boundaries
    - 2) Coastal Boundaries
- 2) Practical Surveying
  - a) Current methods
  - b) Historical methods
  - c) State Plane Coordinate Systems
  - d) Water Boundaries
    - 1) Gradient Boundaries
    - 2) Coastal Boundaries
- 3) Surveying Instrumentation
  - a) Current technology, equipment and uses
  - b) Early instruments and equipment and their uses
- 4) Preparation of field notes, plats and reports
- 5) Court precedents pertaining to surveys and surveyors
  - a) Dignity of Calls

### **REFERENCE SOURCES**

#### Local Sources

- 1) Your County Surveyors Office may contain:
  - a) Field Notes
  - b) Plats
  - c) Sketches
  - d) Field Books

- 2) Your County Law Library (and possibly University Libraries) may contain:
  - a) Gammel's Laws of Texas
  - b) Texas Constitution
  - c) General and Special Laws of Texas
  - d) Vernon's Annotated Texas Statutes
  - e) Texas Natural Resources Codes
  - f) Texas Administration Codes
  - g) Texas and Southwest Reporters (court cases)
  - h) Law digests and dictionaries
- 3) New and Used Book Stores
- 4) Local Surveyors
- 5) Local Surveying Societies

#### Statewide Sources

- 1) Texas General Land Office
- 2) State Libraries
  - a) Texas State Library, Austin
  - b) Sam Houston Regional Library, Liberty
- 3) Surveying Societies

#### Internet Sources

- 1) Web Sites
  - a) Gammel's Laws of Texas
    - a1) [texinfo.library.unt.edu/lawssoftexas/default.html](http://texinfo.library.unt.edu/lawssoftexas/default.html)
  - b) Texas Constitution
    - b1) [www.capitol.state.tx.us/txconst/toc.html](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/txconst/toc.html)
  - c) General and Special Laws of Texas
    - c1) [www.capitol.state.tx.us/](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/)
  - d) Vernon's Annotated Texas Statutes
    - d1) [www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html)
  - e) Texas Natural Resources Codes
    - e1) [www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html)
  - f) Texas Administration Codes
    - f1) <http://lamb.sos.state.tx.us/tac/>
  - g) Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying
    - g1) [www.txls.state.tx.us/sect00/homepage.html](http://www.txls.state.tx.us/sect00/homepage.html)
  - f) Texas General Land Office
    - h1) [www.glo.state.tx.us](http://www.glo.state.tx.us)

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